Conference of State Agriculture Ministers

460. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the short supply of fertilizers for rabi sowing and outlook for kharif, dominated meeting of State Agriculture Ministers convened by the Centre;

(b) if so, whether the meeting also discussed the Horticulture Mission proposals;

(c) whether the Ministry has sought about Rs. 6500 crores for next two years with a heavy subsidy component for Horticulture;

(d) whether prospect of kharif crop and also steps to be taken to improve rabi crop were discussed and a final decision was taken; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. Some of the States mentioned short/ tight supply of fertilizers during the conference. The matter was taken up with the Department of Fertilizers. The Outlook for Kharif-2004 was also discussed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There is proposal to launch a new scheme on National Horticulture Mission for encouraging the farmers for taking up cultivation of Horticulture crops with an allocation of Rs. 6500.00 crores for next two years. The scheme involves subsidy assistance for different components at different rates.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) It was expected that there would be some shortfall in production during Kharif 2004 due to late onset of monsoon in many States.

Accordingly, States were advised to make allout efforts to make good not only this shortfall in Rabi but also to achieve record production during Rabi 2004-05. States were told to take steps to bring more areas under Rabi Crops, ensure adequate availability of inputs such as fertilizers, seeds, pesticides, etc. and to make efforts for realizing optimum productivity through adequate use of inputs.

Preservation and increasing cattle

461. SHRI LALITBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when the last Cattle Census was done; the details of its finding regarding the animal population, like buffaloes, cows, goats, horses, sheep, camels etc., State-wise;

(b) whether it is a fact that 90 per cent of our cow and buffalo breeds are of inferior quality; and

(c) if so, the steps taken to preserve and increase Indian breed of cows, gir and kankrej?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) The last Livestock Census was conducted in October, 2003 and the State-wise provisional population of cows, buffaloes, goats, sheep, horses and ponies, camels etc. is given in the Statement (*See* below).

(b) Around 13% of the cows are crossbred and 87% are indigenous breeds including recognized indigenous breeds of cows and buffaloes.

(c) The Government of India is implementing National Project for Cattle and Buffalo breeding for genetic upgradation and development of indigenous breeds and 26 States are participating under the project. Gujarat is participating for the development of gir and kankrej breeds of cows.